

## A Review of Creative Teaching Strategies Implemented in Teaching English to Language Learners

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### Abstract

Today, with the expansion of the Internet and technology and various educational software and their integration with daily life, people tend to learn more different languages, especially English, which is an international language, so that they can meet their needs as quickly and easily as possible. Language education, especially English language, is increasingly growing at all ages, from young children to middle-aged people, in order to use all the knowledge of the day, they tend to participate in English language courses and classes and learn this language. Meanwhile, English language teaching methods have changed a lot compared to the past. New methods have made it possible for those interested in language learning to have a language class in any situation and under any circumstances, or at least they can learn the language themselves without a teacher. The method that was 100% dependent on physical presence in the class in the past is now also possible with the online method. It is important at what age you are learning English because there are special ways of teaching and learning for each age. Also, teaching English to children has been given a lot of attention by teachers and families, and many researches are conducted to find suitable methods for teaching children, and many methods are continuously developed to be used in language teaching classes. Children's English is presented and used. The high learning power of children even compared to teenagers and young people in English has caused more attention to be paid to the education of children from an early age and education at this age has become very common. But what if proper methods and methods are not used? Is any method of teaching English suitable for your child? In this article, creative and suitable methods for teaching English to children have been discussed and reviewed in order to help you to improve your teaching method.

**Key words:** Learning Theories, Creative Teaching Strategies, Teaching English.

## Introduction

Teaching English to young language learners refers to the process of imparting knowledge of the English language to children who are in their early years of development, typically between the ages of 6 until 12.

This type of instruction focuses on age-appropriate activities that help children develop language skills, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Effective teaching strategies for young learners include the use of interactive activities, games, songs, stories, and visual aids to help children understand and use English in context. Teachers may also use techniques or strategies such as repetition and modeling to reinforce language concepts and provide opportunities for practice and feedback (Genishi & Dyson, 2015; Li & Moreira, 2009). Overall, the goal of teaching English to young language learners is to create a supportive and engaging learning environment that encourages children to use and enjoy the language, while also building a strong foundation for future language learning and communication. Teaching English to young language learners can be a rewarding but also challenging experience. Also, teaching English to young learners requires a different approach than teaching adults. By using age-appropriate materials, focusing on communication, making learning fun, using a variety of teaching methods, and being patient and supportive, you can help young learners develop their English language skills and build their confidence. (Domagała-Zyśk, 2015; Genishi & Dyson, 2015; Lee & Lin, 2015; Nunan, 2016) Teaching English to children or young language learner can be a fun and rewarding experience for both the teacher and the student. Here are some creative strategies that you can use to make the learning process more engaging and enjoyable for children (Hernández-Gantes & Blank, 2008; McKay, 2005; Souto-Manning, 2010).

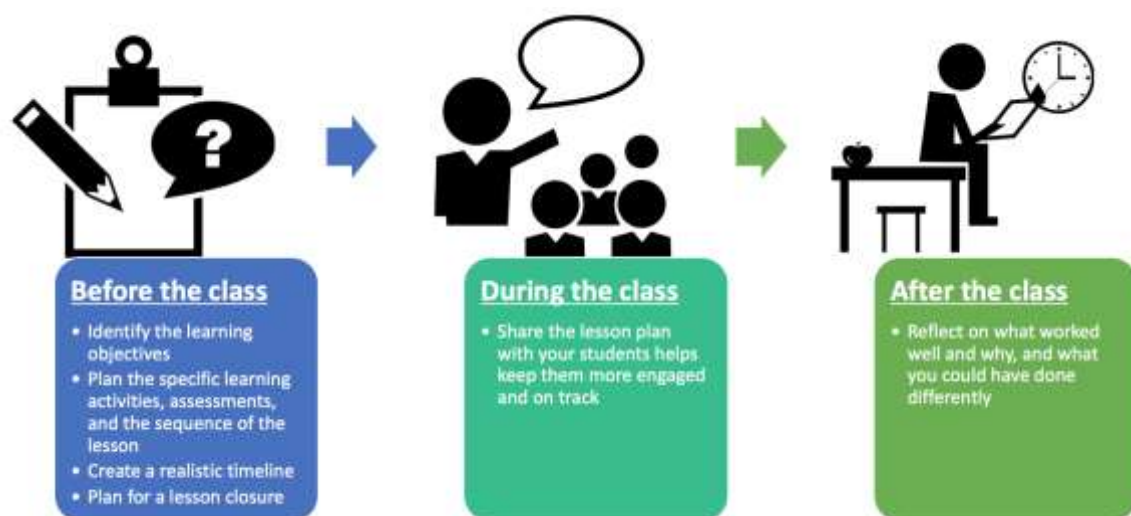


Figure 1. lesson Plan

**What is a lesson Plan?**

A lesson plan is the instructor's road map of what students need to learn and how it will be done effectively during the class time. Then, you can design appropriate learning activities and develop strategies to obtain feedback on student learning. Having a carefully constructed lesson plan for each 3-hour lesson allows you to enter the classroom with more confidence and maximizes your chance of having a meaningful learning experience with your students.

A successful lesson plan addresses and integrates three key components:

- 1- Learning Objectives
- 2- Learning activities
- 3- Assessment to check for student understanding

A lesson plan provides you with a general outline of your teaching goals, learning objectives, and means to accomplish them, and is by no means exhaustive. A productive lesson is not one in which everything goes exactly as planned, but one in which both students and instructor learn from each other.

### **Advantages of using creative approaches**

Teaching English to children in a creative way can have numerous benefits, some of which include (Nunan, 2016; Savignon, 2005; Uktamjonova, 2020):

1. Enhanced Language Development: Children learn best when they are engaged and interested in what they are learning. When English is taught creatively, through games, songs, stories, and other fun activities, it can stimulate their imagination and creativity, leading to better language development.
2. Improved Cognitive Skills: Creative learning activities require children to use critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and creativity. These skills are essential for cognitive development, and can help children become better learners in all areas of their academic and personal lives.
3. Increased Motivation: Learning English through creative methods can make the process more enjoyable for children, leading to increased motivation and a desire to learn more. This can help them develop a positive attitude towards learning, and make English a fun and exciting subject for them.
4. Better Retention: Children are more likely to remember what they have learned when they have had fun doing it. Creative teaching methods can help them remember the language rules, vocabulary, and grammar more easily, and for a longer period of time.
5. Improved Social Skills: English classes that incorporate group activities, role-playing, and other interactive methods can help children develop social skills such as

teamwork, communication, and leadership. These skills are essential for success in all areas of life, and can help children become more confident and well-rounded individuals.

There are many creative teaching strategies can applied in teaching English to young language learners such as storytelling, play games, using music and songs, puppets and props, using technology, role-plays, group discussions, and other activities that require and create a positive learning environment. Those are teaching strategies implemented for create fun teaching and learning process, also it is rewarding experience for both the teacher and the student (Apriliana, 2018; Kabeláčová, 2010; Khulel, 2021; Muhammad Ari Saputra & Yolanda, 2020; Nunan, 2016; Octaviana, 2017).

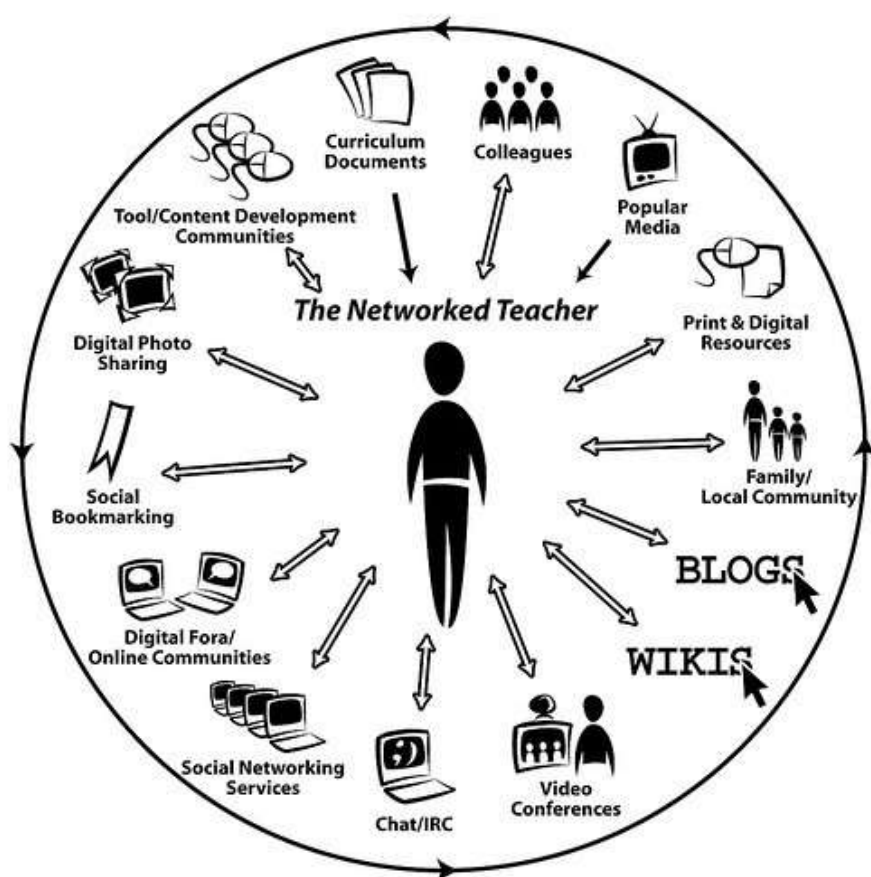


Figure 2. Innovative Teaching and Learning

### New methods of teaching English

1. Technology and smart phones: We all know that smart phones are part of our family. The presence of smart phones can be seen in all aspects of our lives. They even play a big role in teaching languages, especially English. Since many people have access to the Internet through mobile phones, using it in the classroom can be useful. Yes,

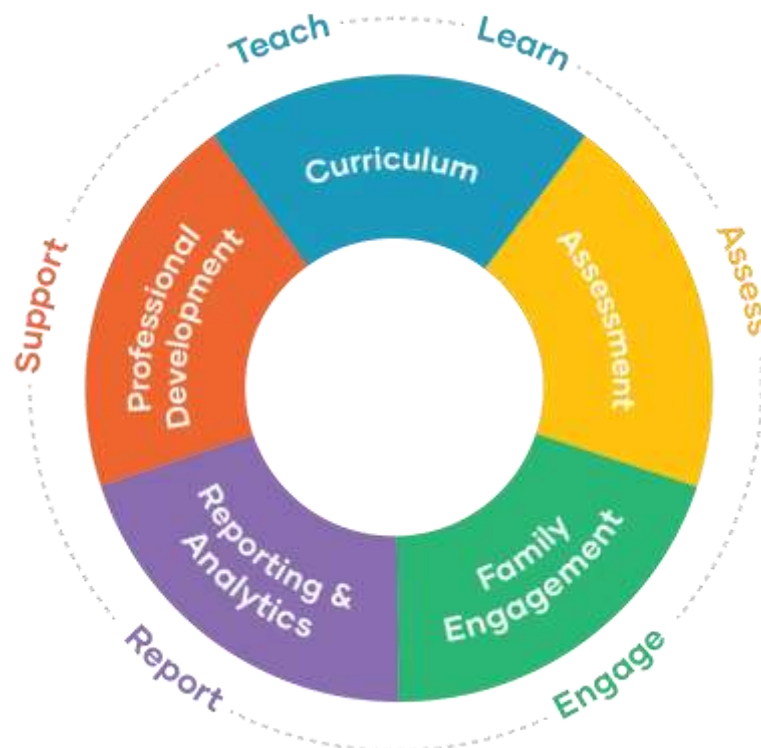
but many teachers do not agree with the use of cell phones in the classroom and consider it a distraction for students. It is better to adapt oneself to technology and manage the class in such a way that the maximum use of the phone and technology is for learning and knowledge. Having all kinds of dictionaries and software on the phone speeds up the learning process. Another use of mobile phones in the classroom is the collective use of language teaching applications.

2. Teaching blogging to language learners: One of the methods of teaching English to teenagers and adults is homework and writing. Today, this technique can be done in different ways. Just like before, ask the children to write homework for you, but this time, instead of writing in the notebook, write in a blog. There are various blogs for writing practice. Blogging is an attractive and lovely job for teenagers. Teach your students to blog for themselves. Blogs allow language learners to strengthen their creativity and think more about the English language and even get ideas from others. Sometimes they can receive different feedbacks from people regarding their writings and communicate with them online. These feedbacks encourage them in their writing style, maybe one day they will become a prominent writer!
3. Radio and podcasts: Radio was considered an educational tool alone for several decades.
4. Even today, it is still a popular device, especially in areas where access to the Internet is limited, on every wave that they use, the listening skills of language learners are gradually strengthened. Today, podcasts have taken the place of radio, language learners can easily improve their listening skills by listening to the contents of podcasts.
5. Introduction of educational sites: You can introduce English language educational sites to children according to the age of your students. Children can do their homework easily by searching in them and gradually get to know research methods in English.
6. Conducting scientific experiments: conducting experiments are not only for scientific classes! Fun experiments in the language classroom can also be a creative and exciting way to encourage students to think and speak in English. Let the children make predictions and experiment to see if their predictions were correct. You can ask students to write their hypotheses and conclusions in English, and then they can present orally at the end of the class. This method gives new life to your classroom and makes the class dynamic. Try it and see the result.
7. Learning through playing: The game is fun and without limits. Games are a great way to encourage adult learners to learn English. Playing games allows learners to engage with English in a fun, low-stress environment and make a positive connection to language learning, but play time must be controlled or the class will quickly become chaotic. How can you play the game without wasting the time of the



class and the students? Ask the children in the class what game they are interested in. Both physical games and online games are very popular among language learners. Role playing is another way to encourage play among learners, role playing is a great way to boost learners' speaking skills and confidence. By giving different roles to the learners, you can teach them different vocabulary. In addition, role playing is very useful for beginning language learners. Usually they don't have the confidence to speak at the beginning, when they stand up and play a role in front of others, their confidence increases and their classmates can help them express new words. Children are more engaged in the new language if play involves dressing up, so that when children play a role in a conversation, they feel like they are someone else.

8. And this way allows them to go out of their mold and be in the place of the game character. In addition to being fun, this method removes the pressure of learning the language from the students and they can speak English more easily. . This method is also useful for adult language learners because they can play a role in a game and their mental worries will be reduced and they can learn the language while resting.
9. Using music: Music is one of the surest ways to attract the attention of language learners. Music helps learners practice listening skills. If your class is equipped with a speaker, then nothing But if it is not available, be sure to get a portable speaker for yourself. In some sessions, when you enter the class, poll your students to introduce their favorite songs or music groups to you. Then you play it in class. (Genishi & Dyson, 2015; Li & Moreira, 2009)



**Figure 3. Teaching Strategies Early Learning Platform**

## Using smart phones in class

Whether we like it or not, smartphones have become an integral part of today's modern life. Since many people have access to the Internet through mobile phones, using it in class can be useful, while many teachers consider mobile phones to be a distraction for students, and it is difficult for students to separate from their mobile phones! If the mobile phone is not used in class for games and other tasks, it is a good tool for learning. Because you can use its dictionary and other applications.

One of the uses of mobile phones in the classroom is the collective use of the Survey Monkey application. This app gives you the opportunity to comment. Or you can organize different competitions between children. For example, give them a sheet full of blanks or multiple-choice questions and ask them to fill the sheet by searching the Internet, and whoever does it first will get positive points (Octaviana, 2017)

## Always encourage your learners

This is another important point in teaching English to beginners. If someone gives an incorrect answer, don't shout: "You're wrong!" Never embarrass learners in front of others. Because this behavior of yours can make him hate the English language forever. Instead, try to create a friendly atmosphere in the classroom by encouraging your learners, even when they make mistakes. For example, when teaching English to beginners, if the learner says the word correctly but just mispronounces it, in response something like "Okay, good!" say and then repeat the word with the correct pronunciation so that you have not embarrassed the learner and taught the correct pronunciation to the rest of the class. One of the mistakes that new teachers make when teaching English is to assume that students understand the lesson or class instructions. In the first session working with beginners, adults or toddlers, learners may not be used to the Western teaching style where students raise their hands if they have a question.

## Prepare the training environment

The most important factor that affects the concentration and learning rate of language learners is the environment and space where they are supposed to be trained. If your class is held in a school or home or any other space, try to set enough peace and quiet, proper light and ventilation, and the temperature of that place and try to remove the factors that distract the students.

Because even if you are the best language teacher and use the best resources and teaching methods, but your space is crowded and does not have suitable environmental conditions, you cannot progress your language education well. If you are going to use a projector, audio

recorder or flipchart in the class and you also need a special educational book or CD, try to prepare it before the class so that it does not take up the students' time during the class. This allows you to maintain their focus during the class and manage the class with a coherent plan.

### Grammatical teaching method

This method can be considered as the most common traditional method of language teaching and the teacher teaches students the rules of English grammar in their mother tongue. This method is usually suitable for people whose mother tongue is very different from English. Monolingual teaching method: In this method, both the teacher and the teacher speak English and do not use their mother tongue during teaching. In this method, vocabulary teaching is a priority and auxiliary tools can also be used. In this way, the complexities of the English language are easier to learn. This method is mostly used when the native language of the teacher and the student or the students are different.

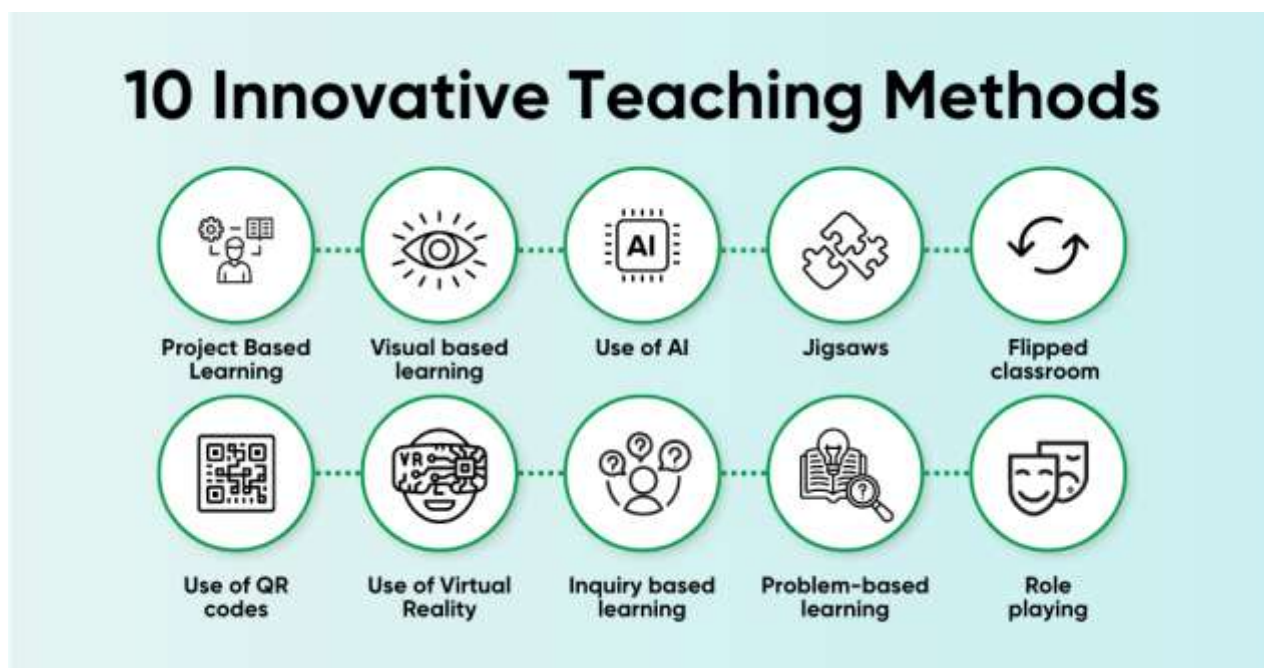


Figure 4. 10 Innovative Teaching Methods: Futuristic Classroom Approaches

### Encourage students to speak only English in the classroom

A great way to facilitate learning is to encourage students to avoid speaking in a non-English language in class. This necessarily makes students use their knowledge in English and develop it.



- This tactic is best used when students are learning the basics (basic questions, greetings, alphabets, and numbers) of the English language. In this case, they get used to speaking in English.
- When a student uses incorrect words or grammar, correct them in the correct way.
- Always be encouraging. Don't constantly point out their mistakes in between their conversations.
- This tactic works well with "repeat after me" or "reply to me".

### **Teaching English with creativity**

For many years, game-type tactics have been used to teach English, but how can it be improved one step now? This suggestion is for more intelligent teachers because it is a bit difficult but it will encourage your students to participate and learn English better. The famous teacher Jason Levine, who became known as Fluency MC and works in New York City, USA, uses rap style songs to teach English. In this way, he teaches students to learn words and words of poems with rhythm so that they can remember these words more easily. This tutorial is also available as a PDF version. With this training method, he has achieved good results and has been able to cover all 4 core abilities. Why don't you use a similar method for training? Even if you don't have the ability to write texts like Fluency MC, you can use his own tutorial to learn this method and teach it to your students.

### **Strategies to enjoy learning English more**

In short, to enjoy learning English and get better results in class and to avoid wasting time and money, the following should be taken into consideration:

1. Creating motivation and passion for learning in students.
2. Making deep changes in teaching methods.
3. The use of audio-visual facilities, which in addition to its effect on learning, creates attractiveness and naturally pleasure for the student.
4. Revision of textbooks.
5. Necessity of change in evaluation methods at the same time as change in teaching methods.
6. Retraining and updating teachers' information and monitoring how modern methods are used in the classrooms.
7. Change in the planning of school hours.

### **A new and interesting method: pay attention to the "three P's".**

The three important P's in teaching English are Prepare, Plan and Practice. The first step in holding an English class is planning for it or preparing a lesson plan in advance. Consider the number of students, available time, and teaching resources to be taught, and prepare your class accordingly. The more detailed your lesson plan is, the less stress you will have in class. In other words, the key to effective and worry-free teaching is to know your Presentation, Warm-up and Production Activities in advance and to know what assignment you will give the students in the end. The Practice part in your class will be much stronger if you plan and prepare well. The next point is that you should set a time for each of the teaching steps and be careful to proceed exactly according to the same times. In this case, you will not have a problem with bringing too little or too much time.

### **Community Language Learning CLL method**

As the name of this method suggests, it is one of the methods of teaching foreign languages in which learning is done socially. One of the problems that older people have is that when they are in the company of teenagers and young people, they may make mistakes that they think they look illiterate! For this reason, many older people, even though they are interested in classes and university, are embarrassed to attend class because they are afraid of being ridiculed. CLL method is designed for this type of people. In this type of teaching method, usually everyone is at the same level and therefore no one is embarrassed by the other. The teacher is more like a leader and after reading the lesson, he asks the people who are divided into groups to practice together. The main role of the teacher is advisory. According to what they have learned, each group starts practicing with each other and if they have a problem and need help, they get help from the instructor. With the positive energy and encouragement he gives to people, the teacher increases their self-confidence and encourages them to continue the path.

### **Creative teaching of language grammar and combining grammar with other activities**

Grammar is such that it is everywhere in the language. Even the simplest sentences have grammar. Maybe the curriculum is such that you need to take only grammar courses. Introducing and teaching different grammar points and topics is important because it makes students have a deeper understanding of the language, but not in such a way that grammar is limited to the same sessions. Games and activities are a very good opportunity to review and emphasize grammar points that take little energy from the teacher and at the same time entertain the students. Stories are also very useful educational tools. After reading a story, ask students to identify examples of the last grammar points you taught in the story or, for example, recognize a common structural pattern in the sentences of that story. The most important thing about creative grammar teaching methods is that they don't have to be dry,

formal and boring. If you teach grammar in the relevant context and in combination with games, stories, etc., students will be able to learn the structure and application of that grammar rule relatively easily, and most likely they will have a lot of fun.

### **A new way to practice antonyms in English**

Drawing a tree of antonyms is the best way to learn and remember antonyms. On a piece of paper, write a word that can have multiple antonyms. Consider three subcategories for the word and write the words that come to your mind. Keep this sheet with you or stick it on the fridge and whenever a new word comes to your mind, add it to its sub-categories and do the same for each word. You can even practice this method as a game with your friends. Ask a friend to choose a word and each of you say as many opposites as you know. Or your friend has several opposites in his mind and whoever points to the correct words wins.

### **The method of teaching new English words**

First step: The teacher explains the word in a way and repeats its meaning. He should try to use the students' previous knowledge.

Second step: Students explain that word in their own language (they can write or say it)

Step 3: Ask the students to explain the word by showing the picture.

Step 4: Students will do exercises related to new words. These exercises help them gain better vocabulary knowledge.

Fifth step: Students should practice the word with one of their classmates.

Step 6: Learners play the game to use the word.

### **Creative methods of teaching and presenting new words in English**

There are many ways to teach and convey the meaning of words.

Visualization: It is a very useful way to teach words that are easy to visualize (dog, rain, tall) and it is also very good for students who have visual learning.

Imitation: It works well for verbs that describe an action and is fun and memorable. -  
Synonyms/antonyms/vocabularies that can be graded: using words that students know to explain new words is very effective.

Definition: If you are not sure about the definition of a word, be sure to refer to the dictionary before starting the class. After teaching, ask the students questions to find out if they have understood the meaning of the word well or not.

Translation: If you know the first language of the learners, word translation is a fast and efficient method. Just remember that every word does not necessarily have a direct translation in another language.

### **Learning and teaching new English words with the help of pictures**

1. Introducing the word: while pointing to the picture and the word, repeat the words related to each picture several times. At this stage, students only listen.
2. Group repetition: Say the picture while pointing to the word and ask the students to repeat after you. Do this with each image.
3. Teacher's reference and group repetition: point to the pictures without saying the words with hand movements, encourage the students to say the word related to each picture.
4. Individual repetition: ask several people individually to say the word related to it by pointing to the pictures. It should be noted that students are allowed to repeat the words individually or in groups only after the teacher. Thanks to Ms. Soheila Karimzadeh for preparing this article.

### **How to teach English grammar and rules**

Creativity should be used to teach English grammar. Teaching grammar is a bit more complicated than teaching vocabulary. Maybe many people advise that grammar should not be taught and language learners automatically learn grammar and language rules by themselves while reading material or listening to English news and videos. Of course, this matter has not been proven 100% and is still taught in universities, schools and English grammar schools. We can also use videos to teach grammar. For example, to teach the present continuous tense, we can play a video and ask: what are they doing and confirm or correct the answer they provide. After presenting and teaching the new grammar and rules, ask students to use this new rule and grammar in sentences and use it in their own conversations.

### **Conclusion**

In this research, the researcher finds out that the creative teaching strategies applied by the teachers in teaching the young language learners in English tuition class at School are play games, use storytelling, use music and songs, used technology such as educational apps, videos, and interactive games to teach English vocabulary and grammar, make it interactive activities such as role-plays, group discussions and Sunday Meeting in the tourist object. Those are strategies related with the theory above.

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